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Amendments to the Specification:

In the specification, please amend the Abstract as follows:

Magnetic particles are prepared containing a magnetic core coated with an outer a
glass layer surface being essentially poreless or having a substantially pore-free glass surface or
having pores of with a diameter of less than than 10 nm as well as ferromagnetic particles
with a glass surface are preferentially useful for the isolation of. The particles are used for
separating biological material from samples such as nucleic acids. They provide a quick and
reliable purification. A preferred process of preparing the particles is by forming a mixture
of magnetic cores with a sol formed from an alcohol and a metal alkoxide, spray-drying the
mixture to coat the cores with a layer of gelled sol, and heating the coated cores to obtain the
magnetic glass particles. Preferably, the particles have an average particle size of less than 100
um. The magnetic core may be a composite material containing a mica core and magnetite
particles immobilized on the mica core, and the glass layer may contain boron oxide.
Magnetic core materials include magnetite (Fe_3O_4) and Fe_2O_3 .